12-12-07

WWW.LAVC.EDU WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

VALLEY STAR

VOLUME 67, ISSUE NO. 10 DECEMBER 12, 2007 IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM- Three-year-old Dianah Kabukura is assisted while lighting one of the seven candles to commemorate Kwanzaa, a non-religious celebration of African American culture that starts Dec. 26 and ends Jan. 1. Valley College got an early start by staging a Kwanzaa observance in Monarch Hall Dec. 6.

Proposition Key to Lower Student Fees

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A controversial initiative on the ballot for the Feb. 5 primary election would, if passed by California voters, reduce community college fees, limit future fee increases and stipulate how much community colleges should receive of the state's education budget.

The proposition would reduce enrollment fees from $20 to $15 per unit and also make fee increases more predictable by matching them to the cost of living.

"[The measure would] give students a chance to control a regressive tax . . . a tax over which they have no control," said Joanne Waddell, physical education professor and Valley College's chapter president of the American Federation of Teachers' faculty guild.

She explained that students' fees do not go directly to their school; instead, they go into a general fund. Although the community college budget is taken from this fund, Waddell said that the money is not returned in proportion to the number of students attending California's community colleges.

The most controversial portion of the bill would ensure that community colleges would receive 10.46 percent of the state's education fund. Currently, the percentage fluctuates between 10 and 11 percent according to the state's Legislative Analyst's Office.

The proposition has split the educational community in the state. The California Federation of Teachers and United Teachers Los Angeles have endorsed the measure, while the California Teachers Association as well as the University of California's Board of Regents and the California State University's Board of Trustees announced their opposition.

In the Legislative Analyst's analysis of the 2007 to 2008 budget, the report finds that the com-

see *Prop. 92* page 2

Search to Start for New Prez

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College President Tyree Wieder's upcoming retirement brings the selection process of a new president to the forefront, but Wieder still has things to accomplish before leaving her position next year.

"Several years ago I really wanted to stay because we had projects moving along like the bond program, and I really wanted to see planning completed for those," said Wieder. "We're kind of at that place now."

The Educational Master Plan and Strategic Plan, which is focused on revising and expanding the curriculum, is a priority for Wieder. Another program underway is the Basic Skills Initiative; a statewide pilot that seeks to expand English as a Second Language, and help students who are unprepared for college-level work.

Wieder also wants to make sure the summer renovations to the humanities, math and science, engineering buildings, and planetarium, which are part of the bond program, are thoughtfully planned out before she leaves. The renovation will force faculty staff in these departments to abandon their classrooms toward the

see *Wieder* page 2

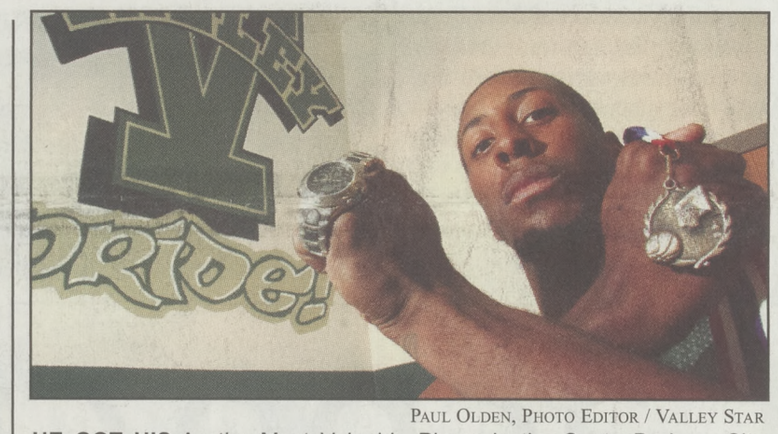
PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE- Valley College President Tyree Wieder is retiring after next semester capping off 14 years on the job. Family time and travel are at the top of her to-do list

Fall 2007 Finals Schedule

Day and Date Of Final Exam	MONDAY December 17			TUESDAY December 18		
Time of Exam	6:30 - 8:30am	9:30 - 11:30am	12:30 - 2:30pm	6:30 - 8:30am	9:30 - 11:30am	12:30 - 2:30pm
Normal Class Schedule	6:30 - 7:55 MW 6:45 - 7:55 MTWR	9:40 - 10:50 MTWR 9:40 - 11:05 MW 9:40 - 10:55 MWF	1:00 - 2:10 MTWR 1:00 - 2:25 MW 1:00 - 2:15 MWR	6:30 - 7:55 TR	9:40 - 11:05 TR 9:40 - 10:55 TRF	1:00 - 2:25 TR 1:00 - 2:15 TRF

Day and Date Of Final Exam	WEDNESDAY December 19			THURSDAY December 20		
Time of Exam	8:00 - 10:00am	10:30 - 12:30am	1:00 - 3:00pm	8:00 - 10:00am	10:30 - 12:30am	1:00 - 3:00pm
Normal Class Schedule	8:15 - 9:25 MTWR 8:00 - 9:25 MW 8:00 - 9:15 MWF	11:20 - 12:30 MTWR 11:20 - 12:45 MW 11:20 - 12:35 MWF	2:20 - 3:30 MTWR 2:40 - 4:05 MW	8:00 - 9:25 TR 8:00 - 9:15 TRF	11:20 - 12:45 TR 11:20 - 12:35 TRF	1:45 - 3:10 TR 1:45 - 3:00 TRF



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

HE GOT HIS-As the Most Valuable Player in the Santa Barbara City Tournament, Valley College forward Shaun Johnson was given a new watch and a first place medal.

Johnson's Priceless Moment in the Sun

BY ERIC L. PATTEN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Shaun Johnson is more than 2,700 miles from home.

Just over a year ago, Johnson, who plays forward on Valley College's men's basketball team, swapped the icy winters of Newark, New Jersey for the 75-degree sunshine of Southern California.

"I came out to California for an opportunity," said Johnson, who lives with teammate Demetrius Malone. "I wanted to focus on basketball."

After red-shirting in '06-07, the 22 year old may have truly arrived, becoming one of the most dependable players off the Monarchs' bench.

Last weekend Johnson was named the Most Valuable Player of the Santa Barbara City College Classic.

In a decisive 100-84 victory over the Santa Barbara Vaqueros in Saturday's championship game, Johnson dropped in 22 points with eight rebounds and four blocked shots.

Valley head coach Virgil Watson said, "He did a great job, but a lot of our guys did a lot to contribute to winning the tournament."

Johnson echoed Watson's team-first attitude, saying his teammates were instrumental in all three victories.

Still, holding up a trophy in December is not the same as hoisting up a championship banner in March.

"Trying to get to state [finals] is all I'm thinking about," Johnson said.

Admittedly, the journey through the Western State Conference is still tenuous, but Johnson's journey to this point is just as noteworthy.

After being cut from the West Orange High School team as a freshman, Johnson relied on local leagues and summer programs to hone his skills on the court. The following two seasons he played sparingly and sat out his senior year to focus in the classroom.

"[Basketball's] a little harder out there," he said. "Certain players give a little more attitude. It can get a little rougher."

see *Johnson* page 5

Free Speech isn't Cheap

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
STAFF WRITER

Freedom of speech is something that every person has a right to, and Valley College does its part by providing a Free Speech area on campus for students and visitors.

Rosemary Smith, Administrative Secretary of Student Services said that the college gets around 10 to 15 requests per semester to use the free speech area.

"Some of the people that come onto campus come for a few weeks, usually to register people to vote or to sign petitions." Smith said.

The most noticeable event in the Free Speech area of late occured in November was when Paul Mitchell, part of Cornerstone Ministries, preached to students, naming Jews, Muslims, Hindus and other religions satanic, and telling passers-by to repent their sins.

Under Board Rule 9902, the college cannot refuse the use of the free speech area to anyone.

"Even unpopular speech is protected," said Smith. "If the content of speech substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the college, then the college can ask the speaker to leave."

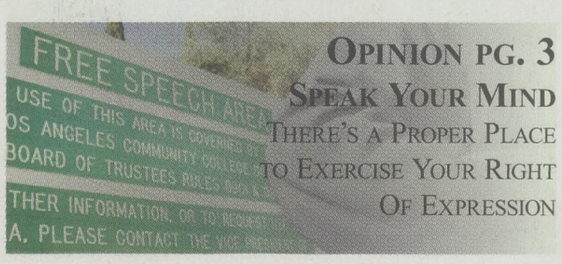
According to Deputy Tom Lynch of the Valley College Sheriffs Department, he is unaware of any incidents relating to the use of the Free Speech area, nor have security had to remove anyone violating speech rules from campus.

Valley student Adriana Martinez, 19, thinks that anyone should be allowed to use the free speech area, but with some limits.

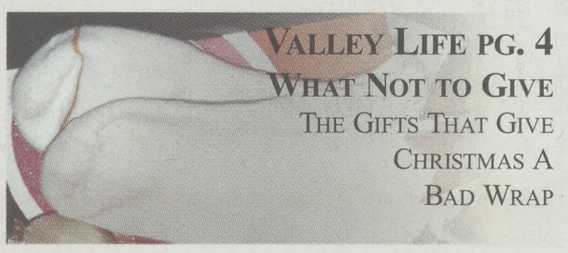
"You shouldn't restrict what people have to say, but speakers should definitely have respect for other people's choices....Religion, sexuality, whatever."

Student Aide Caldera, 18,

see *Free Speech* page 2

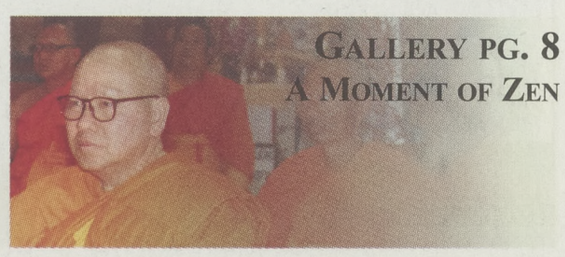

FREE SPEECH AREA
USE OF THIS AREA IS GOVERNED BY
OS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES RULES AND
THER INFORMATION, OR TO REQUEST
A, PLEASE CONTACT THE VICE

OPINION PG. 3
SPEAK YOUR MIND
THERE'S A PROPER PLACE TO EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT OF EXPRESSION



VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
WHAT NOT TO GIVE
THE GIFTS THAT GIVE CHRISTMAS A BAD WRAP

SPORTS PG. 6
END OF SEASON AWARDS
THINGS GO SWIMMINGLY FOR MEN'S WATER POLO



GALLERY PG. 8
A MOMENT OF ZEN

VALLEY STAR STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF
KRISTEN BECKER

PHOTO EDITOR
PAUL OLDEN

VALLEY LIFE/ SPORTS EDITOR
JOSH SPENCE

OPINION EDITOR
SARAH BISHOP

COPY EDITOR
DIANA QUEZADA

LAYOUT EDITOR
BOB TEICHMANN

ONLINE EDITOR
BRAD TAYLOR

STAFF WRITERS
DENNIS ALAMINA
ELIZEDA BELTRAN
JAMES BENNETT
OSCAR CHICAS
KIM DURAN
SHEILA KOOCHAK
MARISSA MEYER
JESSICA RAWSTRON
ASTRID SEIPELT

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
JONATHAN GIBBY
JUAN ROBLES
GRACIELA SALGADO
VAN TRIEU

ADVERTISING MANAGER
CHIP RUDOLPH

ADVISERS
BILL DAUBER
ROD LYONS

TheValleyStar@yahoo.com
www.LAValleyStar.com
(818) 947-2576

'Prop. 92'

continued from page 1

munity colleges will receive $6.3 billion of the $57 billion proposed education budget from Proposition 98 funds.

Proposition 98, which was passed in 1988, amended the state's constitution to ensure that California's kindergarten through 14 schools (this includes community colleges) received approximately 40 percent of the state's budget, but did not specify how the money would be divided.

Although both community colleges and K through 12 schools receive money from the same general fund, the yearly budget is determined solely by the falling attendance at primary and secondary schools.

According to the state's Legislative Analyst's Office, "Each year, the Proposition 98 formula calculates a new K-14 minimum amount of financial support by adjusting the previous year's level based on changes in the economy and K-12 attendance. (Community college enrollment is not a factor in calculating the minimum K-14 funding level.)"

In order to ensure that funding for California's 109 community colleges does not go down, the initiative would base the system's funding "the greater of two population growth rates: (1) state residents between 17 and 21 years of age or (2) state residents between 22 and 25 years of age," according to report released by the Legislative Analyst's Office.

Opponents of the initiative say that it does not provide for a way to pay the $300 million the Legislative Analyst's Office estimates the proposal will cost the state per year, nor does it address the needs of the community college system's low-income students.

"Prop 92 is silent about how to fix the financial mess it creates," California State Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata said in a statement. "Our options are limited: Borrow more. Raise taxes. Or cut other services – education, health care and public safety. Would we really be doing a service to community colleges if their gains come at the expense of our elementary schools, health clinics and police and fire services?"

'Free Speech'

continued from page 1

agrees.

"It is a free country, but people must be respectful," she said. "You're speaking in a public place, not in your own living room."

According to Valley's freedom of speech board rules, those wishing to use the Free Speech area must first obtain a permit from Student Services, located in the Campus Center. There are some restrictions placed on those who use the area, for example, the content must not be obscene or slanderous, and can not disrupt the orderly conduct of the college. Speakers must not force students to take handouts or advertising, use megaphones or the like to broadcast with, or solicit donations without approval.

The Free Speech area is located on the grassy area in front of the cafeteria and library.

'Wieder'

continued from page 1

end of the spring semester to allow construction.

"I won't be here for the construction, but I want to make sure everything is planned out as best we can," she said.

Wieder announced her retirement at this time to allow the chancellor and Board of Trustees time to conduct a search and have someone in place by July of next year.

According to chapter six of the selection of college president Article III, the Board of Trustees will direct the Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor, Mark Drummond, to start a search process that will begin at the community college level. Faculty, staff, and other representatives will develop an announcement describing the position and criteria to be used in selecting a successful candidate. This will result in a recruitment and advertising plan.

The chancellor will then develop a Presidential Search Committee composed of Valley faculty, staff, a student representative, and community representatives, among others. Individuals in the committee will be elected by their peers.

"I hope the chancellor gives the green light [to begin the search] in early January," said Joanne Waddell, professor of physical education and Valley chapter president of the American Federation of Teachers' faculty guild who has served in two vice president and three dean search committees.

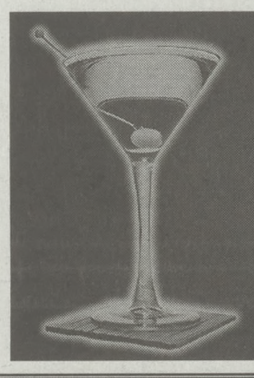
The committee will review the applications of all eligible candidates and interview the candidates that seem to fit the qualification they will look for. The Search Committee will then invite three to five candidates to the campus where the candidates will be introduced to staff and community members. Of these candidates, the committee will recommend three to the chancellor, who then will forward his recommendation to the Board of Trustees, who make the final decision.

Although Wieder will not be active in the selection process, she does believe that certain qualities are necessary in a president.

"Listen to what people are saying, listen to what people are not saying," she said. "Listen to different points of view because sometimes those different points of view have merit."

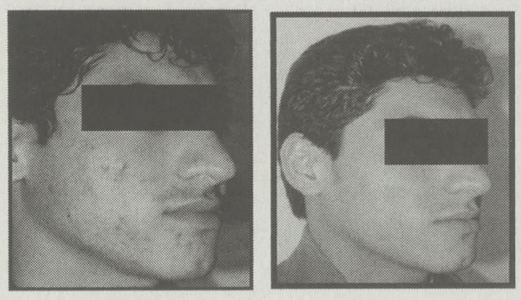
Valley Star Photo Editor Paul Olden contributed to the story.

PHOTOSHOP LESSONS
ONE-ON-ONE TUTORING AT YOUR OWN PACE
STUDENTS:
IF YOU WANT AN EXCITING FUTURE IN GRAPHIC DESIGN OR PHOTOGRAPHY, YOU NEED PROFESSIONAL HELP NOW!
Improve your Design skills!
Improve your Photographs!
Taught by Award-Winning Movie Graphic Designer & Photographer, Henry Lehn - Designed: TOP GUN, ALIEN RESURRECTION, STAR TREK, STAR WARS, 24, THE MUMMY, TOTAL RECALL, etc.
COST? $65 FOR A 2-HOUR INDIVIDUAL SESSION!
HENRY LEHN DESIGN & PHOTOGRAPHY
5535 HAZELTINE AVE. SHERMAN OAKS CA 91401
VALLEY STUDIO: (818) 988 9957 CELL: (818) 489 8362
www.lehnphoto.com ▪ hankipat@earthlink.net
www.cafepress.com/angelfood



National Bartenders School
14418 Ventura Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
818-783-0300
www.bartendingworld.com
www.myspace.com/nationalbartending

got acne?
Nobody guarantees results like we do!
• All Natural
• No chemicals or injections
• No Side-Effects
• Results are immediate
• Acne begins diminishing overnight!



CONSULTATION & 1ST TREATMENT
FREE* FREE
$125 Value - Free! * with the purchase of the acne home care products.
skinology skin care
Your Total Skin Care & Weight-Loss Center
818.783.5300
www.SkinologyOnline.com

Los Angeles Valley College
LAVC
What Are You Waiting For?
Register today for your classes.
Winter 2008 session starts January 2
Spring 2008 semsester starts February 4
› Only $20 per unit
› More English and math classes
› Financial Aid available
Register online at www.lavc.edu or call (818) 988-2222
YOUR FUTURE BEGINS HERE!

Governator Beefs Up Health Care

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
STAFF WRITER

Every two weeks when I get my pay stub, I look at where my money is going – rent, groceries, school fees, cell bill . . . health insurance. At least I am one of the lucky ones who can actually afford medical coverage. It's a sad reality that 6.8 million Californians cannot afford health insurance (2006 Census Bureau figures). However, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is trying his darndest to decrease that number.

Under his plan, the governor would impose taxes on doctors, hospitals and employers in an effort to have every Californian covered by health insurance, at a cost of $12 billion. When he first proposed his plan in January, Schwarzennegger said "Everyone in California must have insurance. If you can't afford it, the state will help you buy it."

The governor said his plan is fair because the burden of healthcare would not be placed on one group, however, doctors and unions are against any changes because they claim it asks too much from the poorest in the state. But this does not make sense, as the governor has already stated that the poor would be subsidized.

Even Schwarzenegger's own Republican Party is skewering his idea; with Assembly leader Mike Villines saying that leveling taxes on employers "will devastate the economy."

The Democrats have drafted an alternative healthcare bill to Schwarzenegger's, however he believes it is less ambitious and has warned he will veto it.

It is absurd that people can be fighting against universal healthcare, one of the most basic rights that any human can have. Are some hospitals and doctors so greedy that they want the uninsured to keep paying exorbitant emergency room fees every time they are injured or fall ill? I suppose I have been spoiled growing up in Australia, where being able to utilize healthcare was a right and not a privilege, and I never had to worry about my bank balance before stepping into my doctor's office.

I am not saying that the medical systems in countries such as Canada, France, New Zealand or my own are perfect, because they still have their flaws. But being one of the richest nations in the world and still not having health coverage that is accessible to all is an embarrassment to the United States.

Gov. Schwarzenegger is to be commended in his fight for universal healthcare. With the state of Massachusetts already requiring healthcare for all, and Washington, Montana and Rhode Island looking to follow, perhaps the tides are turning and Americans can look forward to not having to scrounge around for every spare dollar in order to pay their next doctor's bill.

COURTESY OF PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN

We Can ALL Hear You Now

BY SHEILA KOOCHAK
STAFF WRITER

We've all experienced it at one time or another: you're at a restaurant having lunch or dinner with friends or family, and someone's cell phone goes off obnoxiously loud. So they go right ahead and answer it just to have a loud and lengthy conversation about why they're wearing mismatched socks that day.

There are certain situations that your phone must remain on, like when your wife is having a baby. But when you're about to watch a film or eat dinner while on a date, have the common courtesy to put it on vibrate or turn it off.

When Jay-Z starts blaring in the middle of a class, realize that the world will not come to an end if it's silenced for a couple hours.

The boundaries between public and private are much more indistinct now that we can blabber wirelessly almost everywhere including restaurants, elevators, parking lots, while driving, at a movie, on a bus or train, at the super market or sometimes even on a date. But not all calls are appropriate at all times. There's a time and place for everything so try to keep it short and simple.

The person talking piercingly into a Bluetooth shamelessly offends those obligated to listen to the business that's none of their own. Personal arguments, details about how many drinks they had before throwing up, or intimate knowledge of how their spouse farts in the middle of the night, are all things we can do without.

There are different approaches to having good phone etiquette. Instead of using shattering tunes to announce your incoming calls, be thoughtful of others and keep your surroundings in mind.

If you're in a place where you can't avoid the call, take it outside where you can talk freely.

When getting into your vehicle to drive, end your conversation before you start driving because distracted drivers on phones can cause unnecessary delays, or even traffic accidents.

Caller ID and voicemail are two services that help cell phone etiquette: caller ID lets you know who's calling to determine if it's urgent or not, and with voice mail, if it's critical, the caller will leave a message.

Some people have gotten so fed up with rude cell phone users they have turned to illegal cell phone jammers. These devices knock cell phone users off their lines and prevent a reconnection with the cell tower until the person wanders out of range. The rate at which jammers are selling speaks to the lack of manners among yappers.

People need to re-learn the art of being polite. This is the addiction of our generation. But users must learn phone etiquette. Everyone wants to be respected, so you must show respect to achieve respect. In order to stop all this inconsideration, you must take actions into your own hands and start yourself.

Sack the Plastic Bag

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

When I first came to this country from Mexico and walked into a supermarket, I was amazed at the number of plastic bags my gallon of milk and loaf of bread required. In the town I grew up, a plastic bag was a novelty, saved and reused for groceries and reluctantly given to visitors who needed something to put their belongings in. Now they don't seem a rarity, I see them hanging from trees, flowing in the air, and littering the streets.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors conducted a county staff investigation on April 10 to explore the issue of plastic bag consumption in the county, and the possibility of a plastic bag ban, but the board indefinitely postponed consideration of the staff report to allow input from businesses. The proposal would mimic San Francisco's outlawing of non-biodegradable plastic bags, which went into effect Nov. 20. The sentiment is shared abroad, with London council leaders approving a bill that will ban the distribution of free, throw away shopping bags in the capital.

It is estimated that between 500 billion and one trillion plastic bags are consumed each year, of which six billion are consumed in Los Angeles County according to a staff report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. I would welcome a ban, since people are used to getting these bags for free without associating the costs to the environment.

The disposal of plastic bags puts a strain on our already limited landfill space. Bags are also made from petroleum and natural gases, both nonrenewable resources, and are non-biodegradable, which may take up to 1,000 years to break down according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Not only do plastic bags add to our already polluted world, but according to reusablebags.com, a site that promotes the use of reusable shopping bags, every year more than 1,000 sea turtles and other marine animals die from swallowing plastic bags that are mistaken for food. The plastic bags choke animals or block their intestines, which leads to an excruciating death.

San Francisco took a great stand on this issue. The ban targets grocery stores and retail businesses, making them hand out bags that are 40 percent post-consumer recyclable. If stores do not comply, they face fines ranging from $100 to $500.

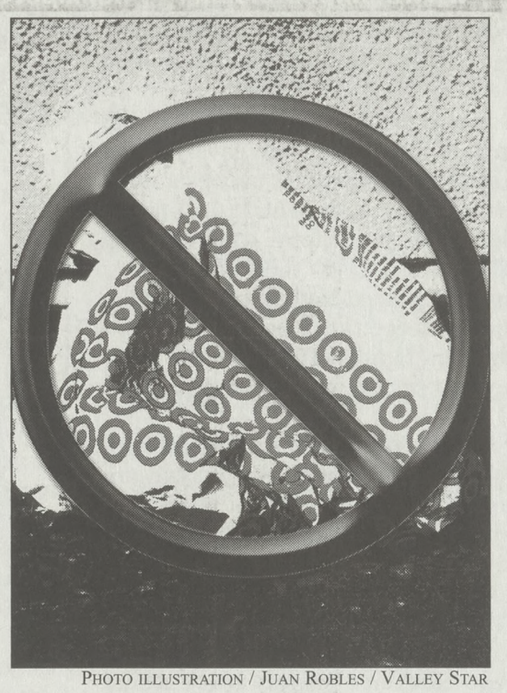


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / JUAN ROBLES / VALLEY STAR

All it takes to reduce our addiction to plastic bags is to bring our own reusable bags to the supermarket. Eco-friendly bags go for as low as $3. It is not enough to say we want to help the environment, we need to act on these words; after all, we have all contributed to the environment's decay.

Pushing the Limits of Free Speech on Campus

BY JESSICA RAWSTRON
STAFF WRITER

All semester, vendors, demonstrators and solicitors are on campus, but often go unnoticed. But one particularly shocking and disturbing rally happened earlier this semester: Abortion demonstrators.

After seeing this, I began noticing all the types of solicitors, distributors and advocators on campus. I question how comfortable I am with having these people chase me down, feed me their religious views and bombard me with gym memberships during the 12 minutes I have to get to my next class. . . so I decided to do some research.

Apparently, there is a "Free Speech Area" on campus in the Los Angeles Community College District, where there is a "normal flow of student traffic with unlimited accessibility for the distribution of materials and the obtaining of signatures" (Free Speech Area Use Policy). The only rules one must follow are they must check-in with Student Services, stay within the designated area, and can only use a certain amount of space. The area on our campus is between the library and the Art building, near Monarch Square.

The concerning part is that, "No restrictions shall be placed on subject matter, topics or viewpoints expressed in Free Speech Areas" (Article IX). Now, don't get me wrong here, as a writer, I'm all about free speech. But let's be honest with ourselves, how necessary is it to parade around with huge abortion posters with photos of human fetuses, warning everyone how inhumane and immoral your religion thinks it is? This is highly unnecessary and disgusting. Not to mention, they actually handed out pamphlets including pictures and comics on their ideas of abortion. . .how inappropriate!

That in and of itself very clearly violates section 9902.10 in Responsibilities of Persons Using Free Speech Areas that states, "All persons using the Free Speech Area of the college are expected to monitor the content of their speech such that the expression (1) is not obscene..." Wait a minute though; obscene is defined as "disgusting to the senses, and repulsive by reason of crass disregard of moral or ethical principles."

Peculiar how the regulations seem to be ignored, and are in fact allowing materials that should be viewed as obscene. Point being, these repulsive images should not be allowed on campus, and students should not be pestered with such annoyances.

FREE SPEECH AREA
USE OF THIS AREA IS GOVERNED BY THE
S ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
OARD OF TRUSTEES RULES 9801 & 9802
IER INFORMATION, OR TO REQUEST USE
PLEASE CONTACT THE VICE PRESIDENT
T SERVICES, CAMPUS CENTER, ROOM 106
OR CALL (818)947-2691.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR
Valley student, Kellen Kenny, 21in the Free Speech Area on campus.

CAMPUS View

When do people on cell phones annoy you?

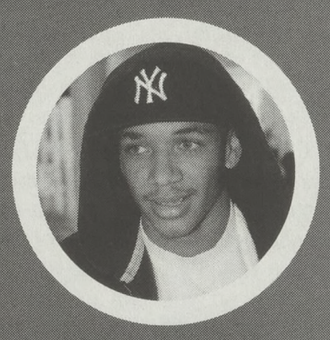
photos by Paul Olden

"When they're driving, because they don't pay attention. They'll be talking and going into other lanes."

- Shelitha Davis, education

"While they drive or if they're constantly on cell pones, because that detracts from you having communication from them."

-Robert Olling, engineering



"If I'm trying to talk to them or if they're in class. Other than that it doesn't really bother me."

-Ron Holden, liberal arts

"In class, in the bus when they are really loud, in public places, [and] in libraries sometimes."

- Karoliha Walczyk, journalism

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

What's New Online @ lavalleystar.com

Harry Potter DVD Review
By Astrid Seipelt

Top 5 Stories @ lavalleystar.com

"Kindle Doesn't Light Students Fire"
By Elizeda Beltran

"Christmas Parade with a Hollywood Touch"
By James Bennett

"Not Ready for Sex Change"
By Brad Taylor

"Up and Down Week for Valley Basketball"
By Kim Duran and Jonathan Gibby

"Love that's Outside th Box"
By Astrid Seipelt

New CD Releases:

Gym Class Hereos- *As Cruel as School Children*

Bow Wow and Omarion- *Face Off*

Dave Matthew Band- *Live at Piedmont Park*

R.Kellly– *Trapped in the Closet Chapters 1-22*

New DVD Releases:

The Bourne Ultimatum
Matt Damon, Julia Stiles

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Alan Rickman

December Boys
Daniel Radcliffe, Lee Cormie

High School Musical 2
Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale, Vanessa Hudgens

New Theatre Releases:

Kite Runner
Khalid Abdalla, Ahmad Khan Mahmidzada

I Am Legend
Will Smith

Juno
Ellen Page, Michael Cera, Jason Bateman, Jennifer Garner

Alvin and The Chipmunks
Jason Lee, Ross Bagdasarian

Don't forget to YouTube:

World's Dumbest Burglar

Another Dumb Burglar

Model Falls News Laugh

Think Transfer!

Fall 2008 UC and CSU priority transer application deadline is November 30. Apply on line at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply or www.csumentor.edu

Guarantee your admission to a UC by participating in a UC Transfer Admission Guarantee Program. For program information, qualifications and applications visit the Career/Transfer Center, Adm. 126, or call (818) 947-2646. All events held in the Career/Transfer Center

Most UC's and CSU's are still open for Fall 2008 transfer applications through the month of December. Apply at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply and www.csumentor.edu

University of Southern California Fall 2008 transfer application deadline is February 1, 2008.

FAFSA filing period is January 2-March 2.

Holiday Cheer For Everyone For Under a Dollar

BRAD TAYLOR
ONLINE EDITOR

JUAN ROBLES / VALLEY STAR

FOR LESS THEN A BUCK-The .99 cent Only store has many gift ideas to choose from for Christmas. They have all kinds of toys for kids and for adults they heva things like tea sets, frames and home decora-

Whoever decided that every major holiday should be in December certainly was not a college student. But fear not my financially strapped friends because tis' the season for the 99¢ Only Store.

Walking into a .99¢ store is like stepping into another country, with aisles of brightly colored products that you have never heard of. "Rinso" or "Blammo," all feature a bizarre array of corporate logos from far away lands.

These stores are the perfect place to find some amazing gifts for everyone on your list. Nothing there is more than .99¢, sometimes things are even 3 for .99¢! If you know someone who hates politics (or loves them) then give them the "George W. Bush and Friends" paper doll book. You can also prepare for all those nieces and nephews who are bound to guilt you for gifts by picking up Sponge Bob Square Pants bubble bath or shop the endless row of coloring books. Sure the kids might want a Hannah Montana book but a Hillary Duff activity center is just as fun.

It doesn't matter what holiday you celebrate, these stores do not discriminate- Ceramic menorahs and chocolate dradles are next to a section full of purple "Barney" tree ornaments. If Jesus is more important to you than Santa then pick up any number of glass angels or plastic manger scenes. Rest assured the jolly old fat man is everywhere too. Also for your Atheist, Agnostic and Pagan friends there are rows of simple snowflake plates and a weird assortment of left over Halloween stuff almost guaranteed to show your disdain for the merriest time of the year.

You will feel like a pirate with the bounty of treasure you will discover in each aisle. Browsing the book section I quickly scooped up a hardback Baywatch book that is sure to make someone laugh. We can all think of the money we have wasted on stupid gifts we thought were funny at the time. I don't care who you are, a "Backstreet Boys" yearbook for only .99¢ and a "New Kids on the Block" cassette tape mixed with a "Kathie Lee Giffords' Rockin' Tots Café" VHS tape are all pure gold.

Forget the insanity of the malls and the 2-hour sales. As students, we have finals to worry about, not where we are going to park at 6:00 am. Prepping for those tough finals will also be a lot easier with a Nsync pencil and eraser set. You can stock up on energy drinks from other countries that are not approved by the FDA, so you know they will keep you alert…or cause you to go blind, whichever comes first

Have fun this holiday season. Find a discount store in your neighborhood and go nuts. Give gifts that help you sleep easier and do much less damage to your credit ratings. No one will know you kept the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers plate set for yourself.

Clever Tips For the Regift

SARAH BISHOP
OPINION EDITOR

Regifting undeservedly carries a negative stigma. It can actually be a time saving and economically sound alternative to buying a gift. The other person has fought mall traffic for you and it only costs as much as the paper used to rewrap it. Both perfect for the time and money strapped student.

The problem is that people think regifting means a candle shaped like a cactus, Aunt Maude's unevenly knitted sweater of Teddy bears in Santa hats, or the oh-so-feared fruitcake. To give a gift you received to another person takes finesse and care.

First, give gifts that actually have merit, but do not do anything for you. Perhaps you hate vegetable juice, but you have a friend who gets the shakes without a daily shot of wheat grass. So when your health-nut cousin gives you a fancy juicer, say thank you, smile, and set it aside. Simple. The presents that would languish in closets or kitchen cabinets get a second chance through the benevolent practice of regifting.

Second, make sure your bestower doesn't know your bestowee. You don't want to hurt the feelings of the person who gave you the wrong gift. This is the whole reason that this process carries a tinge of tackiness. If people keep alert and stay conscientious all members of the redistribution triangle will remain happy. And regifting might become more acceptable.

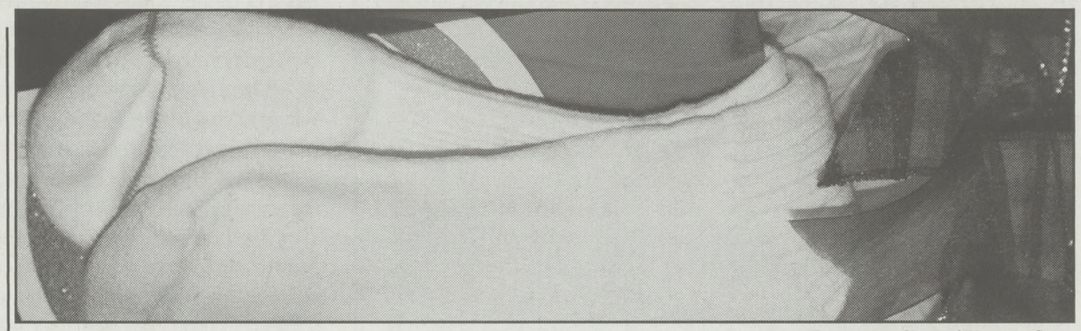
Third, do not let the item simmer. If placed back into the holiday rotation immediately the likelihood of forgetting who gave it to you diminishes. Also technology upgrades rapidly. If you wait a year, the must-have gadget of the previous season will seem passé and raise suspicion.

Fourth, do not give slightly used gifts. A $50 gift card with $48.76 on it or a blouse that has seen an evening on the town are not cool. This process may be partially about thrift but it should not lack taste. Double-check packaging, keep seals unbroken, and save the "gently worn" things for eBay.

Lastly, freshen the gift with new paper and a card. Remember, you really think this person will like this gift. But, it's hard to convince someone you thought of him or her if the paper is torn or crumpled and the card has strange blocks of Sharpie black where names usually go.

Recycling is so en vogue these days, why not do your part this holiday season?

So save some dosh, relax at home with hot cocoa and a fire, and let your shopping come to you.



JONATHAN GIBBY / VALLEY STAR

NO SOCKS ALLOWED – This Christmas you won't score any points with loved ones or friends by giving them a pair of socks.

Nix These Off Your Christmas List

ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

Christmas is coming soon, and by now you have probably already mastered the art of unwrapping presents. First you shake the gift and listen attentively to the sound it, then you slowly rip it apart and put your best astonished face. But the latter may be difficult to do when you discover that your gift is one of the top five worst Christmas presents ever.

5. SWEATERS

Nothing could be better than receiving a sweater to protect you against the cold, but with an array to choose from at department stores, it is likely you will receive one of the wrong color, texture or style. Even when you don't like it, someone in the crowd of people in your living room will encourage you to try it on. Regardless of your discontent, the person who gave the sweater to you will expect to see you wearing it at one point or another.

4. LOTTERY TICKETS

It is the thought that counts, but it is not a good feeling when that thought happens at a liquor store. Sure you can win a couple of dollars, but you can end up with nothing. Life is not always about winning and Christmas is not the best time to be a loser.

3. SPLIT UP GIFT SETS

Regardless of how broke someone might be, breaking up a gift set and giving it to two different people is not very generous. Many of us love fragrances or cosmetics, and we are aware that these items can be bought as gift sets. Getting a 1.7 ounce perfume and a 3.4 once shower gel is not attractive; you know you are being robbed of some goodies.

2. EXPENSIVE GIFTS

Every once in a while you get that expensive gift you cannot reciprocate. The guilt and embarrassment that comes with receiving something that is not monetarily equal to the present you gave is enough to almost make you hand the present back, but that would be improper. If you have the money to buy someone a flat screen or an iPod, by all means do, but expect nothing more than a thank you and a gift worth no more than $40.

1. SOCKS

The sound emanating from the box when you shake it is distinctive, sordid one, but by now most of us are familiar with it. Another set of socks. You can barely contain your excitement in front of the audience that cheers you on as you open your gift. The greatest part is that the packet will contain enough pairs for you not to suffer the catastrophe of walking around with porous socks throughout the year until you receive new ones for Christmas.

Top 5: How to End The Semester on a Strong Note

BRAD TAYLOR
ONLINE EDITOR

With finals right around the corner you may be scared to even think about everything you need to cram into your noggin, but fear not the Scantron because there are some simple things you can do to make sure you that "'C' or better" in any class.

Grab your No. 2 pencil and write down these five helpful study tips, and remember the tips expressed here are not necessarily those of the Valley Star or it's editors, results may vary, void where prohibited.

5. ATTEND CLASS!

This might seem way too logical, but nothing helps more than actually going to class. I know you have a million excuses why you can't make it, but the bottom line is no matter how easy a class may seem it is even easier if you are there. Many professors have attendance points that just may be the breaking point for a higher or lower grade.

4. TAKE NOTES

The dreaded task of note taking is where so many of us go on autopilot; but really putting pen to paper and writing information down is one of the best ways to retain it. If you really want to go the extra mile I suggest re-writing your notes, you will be surprised how much you will already know.

3. READ THE TEXT BOOK!

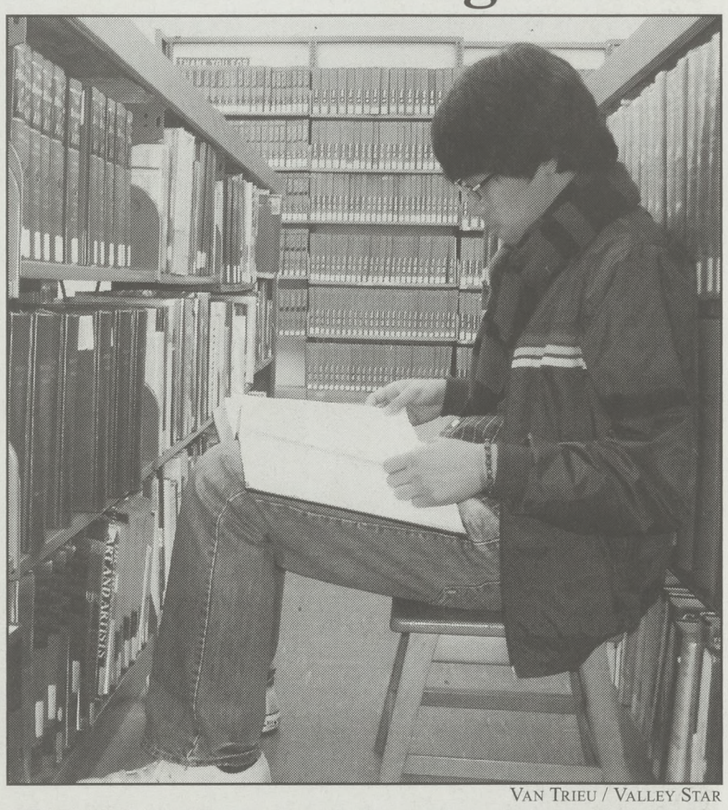
I am constantly amazed by how many students do not even have a copy of their textbook even this far into the semester. I know books are expensive, but there are services that can help out with the cost, like the ASU book exchange program and the internet offers many websites such as "Half.com" and even "Amazon.com" with very good prices on used text books. The textbook is your professor when you're at home,

2. STUDY

Yes, studying the last bastion of hope for a student, so simple yet so true. How many times have you seen your classmates cramming an hour before a test? This does NOT work, your brain will not retain that information for the test. Argue all you want, but the best results come when you give your mind enough time to put all the information into your long term memory where it will do you the most good. Set aside some real time to study, use the library or any place where you will be able to concentrate.

1.TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!

None of the above tips means anything if you are tired in class or skip out on meals before you take a test. Professors give you a syllabus so you can use it. Plan your study time to include meals and maybe even a workout. You will be amazed at how much you can learn when you are awake and alert. Also avoid drinking 5 energy drinks before class. They won't do anything but stop your heart. Avoid the vending machines and eat something healthier.



VAN TRIEU / VALLEY STAR

STUDYING HARD- Valley College student Sean Oreas, 20, a nursing major, is reading-up on Greek Art at the library.

WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL REPORT

WSC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

NORTH	WSC
Cuesta	7-1
Oxnard	7-2
Pierce	8-3
Moorpark	7-6
Allan Hancock	0-8

SOUTH	WSC
Citrus	8-2
Santa Monica	4-3
Glendale	6-5
L.A. Valley	5-6
West L.A.	3-3
Canyons	2-3
Bakersfield	2-7

WSC SCORING MARGIN

Ventura	+31.5
Pierce	+23.5
Citrus	+15.5
Cuesta	+14.2
Oxnard	+13.6
Santa Barbara	- 0.8
L.A. Valley	**- 0.9**
Santa Monica	- 2.1
Glendale	- 2.7
Canyons	- 4.0
West L.A.	- 5.7
Moorpark	- 10.8
Bakersfield	- 13.2
Allan Hancock	- 22.6

TEAM OFFENSE

1. Ventura
2. Pierce
3. Citrus
4. Oxnard
5. Santa Monica
6. Canyons
7. **L.A. Valley**
8. Santa Barbara
9. Cuesta
10. Bakersfield
11. Glendale
12. West L.A.
13. Moorpark
14. Allan Hancock

Official state stats online - Go to www.coasports.org

WSC BASKETBALL

Valley Cagers Do It All on the Road

PAUL OLDEN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

It was a weekend of mixed results for the Valley College Men's and Women's basketball teams.

The Monarch men were at the top of their game and won the Santa Barbara City Tournament by handily beating the hometown team, Santa Barbara City College, 100-84 last weekend.

The Valley College women's team got off to a bad start at the Moorpark Tournament last Friday at Moorpark College by losing to Ventura College 86 to 71 despite 20 points from La' Day Venson and 19 points from Juanita Lewis. After bouncing back with an 83-77 win Saturday, the Lady Monarchs (6-7) lost to Antelope Valley 67-58 in the consolation championship.

The men's team is now 10-3 and their latest victory was sealed in the opening minutes of the game against Santa Barbara whose team crumbled under Valley's full-court pressure defense. The defensive blanket created a flurry of turnovers and steals, which resulted in a 25-5 start for the Monarchs who never were really challenged the rest of the game.

"Our kids played with a lot of energy," said Head Coach Virgil Watson. "They [SBCC] were surprised by our tempo and pressure."

Sophomore forward Shaun Johnson was the star among stars for Valley.

Johnson tallied 22 points, eight rebounds and three blocked shots to earn the tournament's Most Valuable Player award.

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

RUNNING THE GAUNTLET-Valley College freshman forward Juanita Lewis drives between two Ventura College players on her way to the basket. Lewis scored 19 points in the Monarchs' 86-71 loss to the Pirates Dec. 7.

"It felt good," said Johnson who was given a shiny new watch as the MVP.

It may come as a shock, but Johnson has had an even better game this season. He scored 24 points with 18 rebounds and eight blocked shots in an 83-81 win over Gavilan College Nov. 18.

In Santa Barbara, Valley sophomore guard Germel Coleman, who added 14 points and eight rebounds, and sophomore guard Gino Riney, were named to the All-Tournament Team.

SBCC was led by Mark Keeten who scored 41 points.

The slow start for SBCC even caught Johnson off guard.

"I thought they'd be better than that since they were playing at home and in the championship game," he said.

After watching Johnson's stellar performance, Coach Watson says he's not surprised.

"He comes off the bench and is an excellent rebounder, shot-blocker and he scores most of his points inside … we try to keep him near the basket in our style of play."

The Monarchs advanced to the championship game after playing to close games. They beat Allan Hancock College 83-79 and stopped Oxnard 76-73 in the semi-finals.

After taking a break for Christmas, Valley resumes its schedule at the Mt Jacinto College Tournament Dec. 28 and 30.

Coach McMillan and Valley Athletes Make Big Splash

OSCAR CHICAS
STAFF WRITER

The Western State Conference Conference named Valley College men's water polo coach Jim McMillan coach of the year, and Valley College athletes earned a slew of All-Conference honors in water polo, cross country and soccer.

Men's water polo player Jason Falitz was named co-conference MVP along with Bryan Buhagiar from Cuesta College.

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

HE KNOWS HIS STUFF- Valley College men's water polo coach Jim McMillan, left, has been named Western State Conference Coach of the Year.

Freshman Greg Fields, Jarod Prezebieda and sophomores Dan Garcia and Ricky Mulcahey made the WSC All-Conference First Team. Freshman teammates Ian Joyce, John La Rosa and Sophomore Adam Mendal-Senet made second team all conference.

Women's water polo player Lachee Singleton was named to the WSC All-Conference First Team. Freshman Marcy Salazar, sophomores Patty Lerma and Patti Navarro were named to the All-conference Second Team. Lerma and Navarro where also part of the All-Conference Second Team in 2006.

"I was suprised I won the award. It's always nice to be recognized by your peers....[on co-MVP Jason Falitz] The award is well deserved he's a great tem leader

- Coach Jim McMillan

The women's soccer team underachieved with a record of 2-17-2, 0-16-1, and 0-13-1. That did not impede Freshman Maria Guardado from making the All-Conference First Team. Fellow freshman Jocelyn Mercado made it on to the All-Conference Second Team. Freshman Laura Miramontes and Daisy Gonzalez received honorable mention.

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

ONE OF THE BEST- Valley College water polo player Jason Falitz, left, has been named Co-Player of the Year in the Western State Conference. Falitz shares the honor with Bryan Buhagiar of Cuesta College.

Valley's Cross Country had an up and down season with inconsistent showings but the women were able to take 12th place at California Community College Cross Country Championship. The men had only had two representatives in freshman Andrew Salg and German Sanchez who walked away with 27th and 139th at State Finals. Salg made All-Conference First Team while Sanchez made it onto the second team.

Elva Lopez and Freshman Mekka White-Edwards receive a place on the All-Conference Second Team. Honorable mentions were also given to freshman Erika Lopez and Sylvia Alboniga.

'Johnson'

continued from page 1

Moving to California, on the other hand, was exactly what he needed to get motivated.

"An old assistant coach brought me out here," said the sophomore Johnson. "He recruited me because he thought I could get an opportunity."

At 6-foot 7-inches Johnson has arguably become an imposing force underneath the hoop, blocking shots and rebounding against just about everyone the Monarchs have faced.

Although he was turned away in high school, rejecting opponents' lay-ups and jumpers comes naturally.

"I like blocking shots. As long as they don't call a foul on me," he joked.

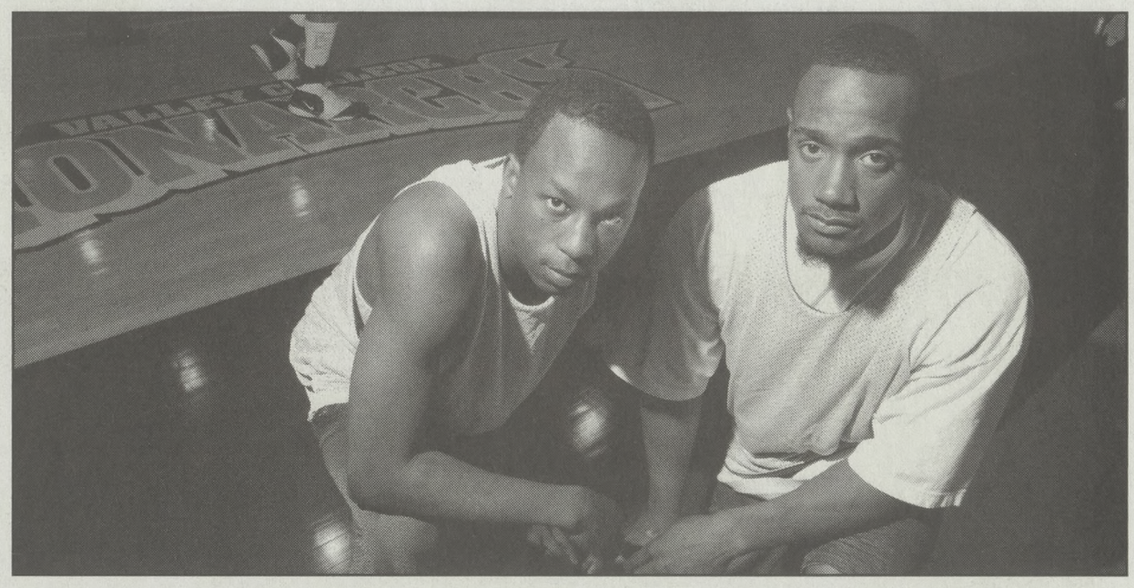
But as someone who was simply searching for a chance, Johnson realizes he has a lot to work on. Citing everything from ball-handling skills to rebounding as areas of his game he could enhance.

As for coming off the bench, Johnson actually prefers it.

In 13 games, he has watched every tip-off from the sideline.

"I don't mind coming off the bench," he said. "I like to watch, see what my opponent does the first couple of minutes and see what I'm up against."

Back in New Jersey, his old foes might be watching as well and wondering what they would have been up against had Johnson not left.



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

TWO FOR ALL TOURNAMENT- Valley College guard Gino Riney, left, and guard Germel Coleman were named to the All-Tournament Team after the Monarchs beat Santa Barbara City College Dec. 8 in the Santa Barbara City Tournament. Valley improved its record to 10-3 with the victory

GALLERY

THE CORE OF ENLIGHTENMENT - Buddha reached nirvana, the ultimate state of enlightenment, in which the soul is free from all worldly possessions.

GUARDED BY TWO - The temple, guarded by these two statues, is one of the centers in California that is used by Buddhists to meditate, go for guidance, and to learn more about their practices.

NEWLY BLESSED - Buddhist monk Achan Yon blesses a newborn so his future could be full of positive surroundings.

A DOOR TO SOMETHING NEW

In a time as frantic as the one we live in, it is always good to explore things out of our spectrum. We should attempt to understand people different from us, considering the melting pot we are part of. Buddhism is mainly practiced in Southeast Asia, but there are many principles we could all learn from. One of those principles is giving without expecting anything in return. And it could be as simple as that or as deep as meditation. Maybe by going to this temple located between Coldwater Avenue and Roscoe Boulevard in North Hollywood, you might expand yourself and experience something you probably would not expect to be a part of.

Photos and Text By Graciela Salgado

MEDITATION TIME - One of the main principles of Buddhism is to practice meditation frequently to keep the mind clear of all thoughts and focused in the present.

WORKING HARD - Part of the monks' practice is to keep their minds focused and occupied. Some of that is reflected in their hard work around the temple, which includes gardening.